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Avondale swears in six new firefighters



From left: Marlin Nightengale, Calen Smith, Matt Artibey, Travis Lambert, Cory Whigham and Chris Smith are Avondale Fire-Rescue's newest members.

Sue Pistoia/Avondale Fire-Rescue

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By Peyton Gallovich
The Arizona Republic - 12 News Breaking News Team
Wed Oct 16, 2013 4:52 PM

Avondale Mayor Marie Lopez Rogers swore in six new [firefighters](#) at the City Council meeting on Monday, Oct. 14.

The new firefighters will fill vacancies created when senior firefighters move to a new fire station, Deputy Fire Chief Ron Deadman said.

Fire Station 174 is set to open near Estrella Mountain Community [College](#) in January 2014. The Avondale Fire-Rescue Department partnered with the community college build the station on its land, Deadman said.

As part of this partnership, the building will also offer space for some community college [classes](#), he said.

Senior firefighters from other stations will be moved to the new building once it is completed. The six new hires will take their place at other stations around the city, Deadman said.

The station was built to serve a growing part of the city and to improve response

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times, Deadman said.

Building out the station and purchasing equipment cost the city about \$2 million. The city built the shell of the station a few years ago but halted construction once the recession hit, said Kevin Artz, the city's Finance and Budget Director.

The cost to operate the new building, including the firefighters' salaries, is about \$1.7 million, Artz said.

Deadman said the city will begin hiring nine more firefighters in November to fully staff the new station.

Avondale will employ a total of 65 firefighters after Fire Station 174 is fully staffed.

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